

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A particle which comprises a meltable organic solid component (A), wherein the solid component (A) comprises a plurality of organic solid materials each having a different affinity relative to a water-soluble auxiliary component (B), ~~and the water-soluble auxiliary component (B) comprises at least an oligosaccharide (B1),~~

wherein the organic solid component (A) comprises

a hydrophobic polymer (A1), and

a hydrophilic polymer (A2) having at least one hydrophilic group selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an imino group, an ether group, an oxyalkylene group, an ester group and an amide group,

the particle has a core-shell structure, the core contains the hydrophobic polymer (A1) and the shell contains the hydrophilic polymer (A2), and

at least one of the hydrophobic polymer (A1) and the hydrophilic polymer (A2) is a condensation-series thermoplastic resin.

2. (Previously presented) A particle according to claim 1, which comprises a polymer component (A) containing a plurality of polymers, wherein each of the polymers has a different affinity relative to the auxiliary component (B).

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A particle according to claim 1, wherein the shell has a thickness of 10 nm to 1 μ m.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A particle according to claim 1, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the ~~hydrophobic polymer~~⁷ hydrophobic polymer (A1) relative to the hydrophilic polymer (A2) is 30/70 to 99/1.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A particle according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic polymer (A2) contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of a vinyl acetate-series polymer, a polyvinyl alcohol-series polymer, a polyester-series polymer, a polyamide-series polymer, a polycarbonate-series polymer, a polyurethane-series polymer and a cellulose derivative.

10. (Previously presented) A particle according to claim 1, which is a spherical particle having an average particle size of 0.1 to 100 μm , a coefficient of variation of the average particle size of not more than 60, and a length ratio of a major axis relative to a minor axis of 1.5/1 to 1/1.

11. (Withdrawn) A composition having a disperse system, which comprises
a matrix comprising a water-soluble auxiliary component (B) containing at least an oligosaccharide (B1), and
a particulate dispersed phase comprising an organic solid component (A) containing a plurality of organic solid materials, and dispersed in the matrix.

12. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the organic solid component (A) comprises a first organic solid material (A1) and a second organic solid material (A2), and the first material (A1) and the second material (A2) being immiscible with each other and different in affinity relative to the auxiliary component (B) from each other.

13. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the dispersed phase is a spherical dispersed phase having an average particle size of 0.1 to 100 μm , a coefficient of variation of the average particle size of not more than 60, and a length ratio of a major axis relative to a minor axis of 1.5/1 to 1/1.

14. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the oligosaccharide (B1) comprises at least a tetrasaccharide.

15. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the oligosaccharide (B1) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a starch sugar, a galactooligosaccharide, a coupling sugar, a fructooligosaccharide, a xylooligosaccharide, a soybean oligosaccharide, a chitin oligosaccharide and a chitosan oligosaccharide.

16. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the oligosaccharide (B1) has a viscosity of not lower than 1 Pa·s when a 50% by weight aqueous solution of the oligosaccharide is measured at a temperature of 25°C by a B-type viscometer.

17. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the auxiliary component (B) comprises the oligosaccharide (B1) and a water-soluble plasticizing component (B2) for plasticizing the oligosaccharide (B1).

18. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 17, wherein the oligosaccharide (B1) shows a melting point or softening point or is decomposed at a temperature higher than each of heat distortion temperatures of a plurality of organic solid materials constituting the organic solid component (A), and the melting point or softening point of the plasticizing component (B2) is not higher than the heat distortion temperature of at least one of the organic solid materials.

19. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 17, wherein the plasticizing component (B2) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a saccharide and a sugar alcohol.

20. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 19, wherein the sugar alcohol comprises at least one member selected from the group of erythritol, pentaerythritol, arabitol, ribitol, xylitol, sorbitol, dulcitol and mannitol.

21. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 17, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the oligosaccharide (B1) relative to the plasticizing component (B2) is 99/1 to 50/50.

22. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 17, wherein
the organic solid component (A) comprises a plurality of polymers, and each of the polymers has a Vicat softening temperature defined by JIS K 7206 of 60 to 300°C;

the oligosaccharide (B1) has a viscosity of 3 to 100 Pa·s when the viscosity is measured using a 50% by weight aqueous solution of the oligosaccharide at a temperature of 25°C by a B-type viscometer; and

the auxiliary component (B) has a melt flow rate defined by JIS K 7210 of not less than 1 when measured at a temperature 30°C higher than the minimum point of the Vicat softening temperatures of said polymers.

23. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the organic solid component (A) relative to the auxiliary component (B) is 55/45 to 1/99.

24. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a particle comprising an organic solid component (A) containing a plurality of organic solid materials, which comprises eluting an auxiliary component (B) from a composition recited in claim 11.

25. (New) A particle according to claim 1, wherein the condensation-series thermoplastic resin is a high molecular weight compound.